Pocahontas Co.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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R.W Brown Greenbank. W.Va.

And Imployes of Gardner Packard at Cloverlick.

The first Tub Mill and Saw Mill in the Greenbank community was owned and operated by the pioneer Wooddells probably Joseph Wooddell,this tub mill the top stone is stationary and the bottom stone the runner,while the grist mill the bottom stone is stationary and the top stone the runner a ti thammer was installed at this mill which was greatly needed by the pioneers in making tools and impliments of iron and steel this operation took place the Henry Woodiell place in Greenbank,the lumber that finished the old colo al house of Jacob Warwick at Cloverlick was sawed on this mill at Greenban some 130 years ago.A Tilt Hammer was installed at this mill which was grea tly needed by the pioneers in making tools and impliments of iron and steel namely horse shoes,wagon tires,shovel plows,bolts,nails and many others,f people living in the town of Greenbank today know that such a machine as Tilt Hammer was operated in the town of Greenbank.

About 1799 the water power of North Fork was beginning to be l nessed up this was called Cartmills Creek at that time ,here a Tub mill built that was in operation for 10 to 15 years this was all built by Har Conrad,his son Soloman in later years remodeled the mill and added to the rocks a way to grind buckwheat and wheat and in connection had an Up and saw mill and a dry kiln which was always filled with the very best White lumber that found a ready sale.This Soloman Conrad homestead is the oldes in the Greenbank community.

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About 1822 Patrick Bruffey built a grist mill and Saw Mill combined and in Connection had a blacksmith Shop and established a wagon shop and supplied the community and surrounding terretory with wagons,Bruffey later became Sheriff of Pocahontas County and died 1853 and today you find milling going on at this same location but the mill is known today as The North Fork Milling Co,and from the very first has been the main stand by for the community.

The pioneer Daniel Kerr located on Deer Creek at the close of the Revolutionary War and established a grist mill,saw mill and blacksmith shop and a little later a lathe was installed and was operated by Fredrick Phillip who was a wheel right and made spinning wheels,looms,reels,spoods,frames and chairs.This was the only water power mill on DeerCreek.

About 1819 Lundy Taylor settled on Galfords Creek and erected grist mill and saw mill that was kept running until 1880.

About 1825 to 30 John Yeager erected a saw mill on Block Run branch of North Fork and it was here that the finishing lumber was sawed f the old log church on the Allegheny Mountain. The old mill site was about t miles from the Yeager homestead and the Allegheny Battle Field on the Blo the Monongahela National Forest passes through the old mill dam.

A few years after the Civil War Dr.J.P Moomau erected an Beam mill near Greenbank,the lumber sawed was mostly Cherry which was so Cabinet makers in this section and was made into furniture for the settl

Greenbank community.,a carding machine was installed along with this mill turning out wool yarn to the many weavers of that time in and around Greenbank this carding machine was operated by William B Woodiell.

The last water power Saw Mill on North Fork was built and operated by Robert J Brown on Sutton Run,it was built about 1885 and was kept in running condition until 1907 in connection with this Saw Mill there was a rip saw,shingle mill,turning lathe and plaining mill this was the first plaining mill in the Greenbank community the finished lumber being used to finish the many houses that were being built by the settlers at this time.

The germs of time and decay have destroyed all the water power mill in this section except the North Fork Milling Company mill which is still in operation.

North Fork and Deer Creek of the Deer Creek valley beautiful mountain streams flow gently toward the sea with their power unharnessed.

Pocahontas County has many mountain streams and if harnessed wou furnish an abundance of power to run machinery and generate electricity of the most famous streams are Hills Creek,Locust Creek and Stamping Creek the southern end of Pocahontas County,Williams River,Swago Creek,Beaver C Knapps Creek and Clover Creek of the center of the county the latter Clov Creek has been harnessed near Cloverlick with a dam and a dinamo that fur

Commerce And Industry.Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

electricity to Cloverlick and the surrounding terretory this water wheel was installed by Berry Coyner of Cloverlick,and was erected in 1937 with a franchise from the state to set poles and furnish electricity to the people of Cloverlick and near by terretory.

In 1931 a man by the name of Gardner Packard of Balt. Md with his cousin the late William C Gardner started the operation of a post and rail plant at Cloverlick the posts were Locust and the rails of Chestnut bought from farmers of Pocahontas County it required many thousand of each this has furnished a market for our Locust and Chestnut timber they were trucked to Cloverlick and there finished ready for shipment to New York and Maryland to be used for fencing as the salt water from the ocean in the mist that covers certain areas of these states causes fast decay of metal fencing most of these rails and post went to Long Island ,they also made what is known as hurdle fence that went to New York state to be built on some of the old colonial estates where they have and raise fancy horses namely the Whitneys,Vanderbilts and others,the power to run this plant is generated at Cloverlick.This operation not only furnishes a market for our timber but furnishes employment to many men either at the plant or in trucking or cutting the timber from all over Pocahontas County.

These posts and rails are shipped out over the C & O from Cloverlick to Maryland,New York and other seaboard states.

Other streams that could be put to use in Pocahontas County are Deer

al Commerce And Industry.Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va. Pocahontas Co.
Creek,North Fork,Galfords Creek,Sitlington Creek and a part of Cheat River
of the upper half of the county and Elk River of the North Western part,the
future of these streams is in in the making as they could be harnessed so as
to furnish power for the entire county,electricity for the rural sections.

Greenbrier River with the fall it has could be put to work furnishing
electricity for both power and lights and it is hoped that in the near futu-
re some one will undertake to harness some of our many streams thereby furn-
ishing electricity and power to the rural sections of Pocahontas County this
would cause the wheels of industry to roll and Pocahontas County would again
be one of W.Va.s industrial counties.

Information.Ist part from Pocahontas Times and R.W Brown.Greenbank.W.Va.
latter part.observation and employes of Gardner Packard working at Clover-
lick.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick. W. Va.

Chapter 5 section 3b
July 12, 1940

TANNERS, MILLERS AND BLACKSMITHS

NORTH FORK MILL

This mill was erected by Uriah Hevener, Sr., in the year of 1879, on the site of the old Bruffey flour mill. Patric Bruffey had erected a flour mill on the same site about the year of 1825 which was deiven by an over shot water wheel; he also had an up and down saw mill driven by the same water power arrangment, which had been supplanted by a new saw mill in the 1870's

In the last few years the mill was operated under the firm name of The North Fork Milling Company, but was known far and near as the Hevener Mill. It was erected when the famous white pine trees were plentiful and all the frame work was hewed and dressed by hand, all the framing was mortised, draw bored and pinned with locust pins. No spikes were used in the frame work. The entire building was four stories high including the basement and was a complete masterpiece of architecture. The modern carpent would always stand in admiration and marvel at its perfect construction.

The services of James Elliott was secured to build the mill and with the help of Eldridge Brown and a Mr. Propps did all the carpenter work on the building. Charles P. Brown laid the foundat and did the mason work. The machinery was put into perfect running condition by a millwright by the name of Coramn and Robe J. Brown, carpenter helper.

Many different millers operated the mill during the past xixty years. Perhaps Robert N. Gum worked the mill longer than any other miller.

In keeping up with industry, and in view of the needs of the Greenbank community it may be observed that the old Bruffey mill and the Hevener mill was a center of industry and had their place of importance in the niche of the history of the Greenbank community.

James Elliott, the master mechanic of the building was a soldier in the Indian wars; was a private under the command of General George A. Custer, and General Reno. He was with Reno's army when Custer's company was massacred in 1876. Mr. Elliott's affidavit was taken by Squire John P. Townsend in 1926 for the purpose of securing a pension as an Indian war veteran. He died before the papers were ratified by the U. S. Government. He was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War under the command of General Kirby Smith, and Dick Taylor in the South West. After the war he worked his way from Mississippi to Iowa, and from there in company with a man named Reynolds went to the Dakotas on a trappi expidition and thereby enlisted in Custer's Army.

On Saturday night, March 2, 1940 the North Fork Mill was utterly and completely destroyed by fire. This disaster is considered the most unfortunate event of a calamitous nature that has affected the Greenbank neighborhood since the days of the Civil War. J. B. Orndorf owner of the mill had worked in the mill all day without fire. Different persons had passed the mill just after dark and saw no light or fire. The fire was discovere about 7 p.m., by Clyde Gillispie and Cecil Arbogast who live nea

the whole inside was a mass of flames when first discovered. In less than half an hour the whole structure was a mass of ruined machinery. The entire loss is estimated at more than $10,000. The two turbine deive wheels are still in the water deck in regular arrangement. This mill has been the main stand by for the neighborhood for a period of about sixty years. - From Times - by Rosloe Brown of Greenbank

* Patrick Bruffey, who erected the mill on this site in 1825 was a very useful and prominent citizen; a skilled workman in stone, iron and wood, and filled most of the official positions in the gift of the county.

* John Jordan, the ancestor of the relationship of that name in lower Pocahontas, was a very worthy native of Ireland. By occupation he was a tailor, and when he once met a fellow member of the craft after a prolonged separation his friend was very demonstrative in the pleasure the meeting afforded him. In his joyful exhilaration he struck his friend Jordan on the back of his hand with a side blow of his own. This friendly lick was so powerful as to inflict a bruise so serious in its effects as to necessitate amputation of the arm just below the elbow. Neverthe less he learned to use a hoe or ax to a good purpose in after life. He came to this region as a traveling merchant, dealing in Irish linens and other portable merchantdise. He was a "hard money" man in his financial preferences, and converted all paper money he received into silver and gold. Miss Miriam McNeel, daughter of John McNeel the pioneer, found out in some way that the young merchant had about a half bushel of coin, and it seemed to occur to her mind that if a person disabled as he was could make that much money,

he could certainly take good care of her. To the surprise of her friends that a nice sensible girl as she was should fancy a cripple, but she did not discourage the attentions of the hustling young Irishman, and they were married. At that period in our local history a young mans recommendation was his ability to clear land, split rails, and grub stumps, but to marry a cripple in store clothes was not to be thought of.

After their marriage Mr. Jordan continued to prosper in making a living, and purchased some servants to wait on the girl that had made such a surprising venture as to marry him. He settled on Millstone Run and opened up a fine farm. There were five sons and three daughters.

THE McNEEL MILL

The McNeel mill at Millpoint was built about eighty years ago by Isaac McNeel. Mr. McNeel owned the mill until his death, after which time it belonged to his son Dr. Winters McNeel of Hillsboro. On July 8th. I visited this mill and was told by the present proprietor G. N. Dalton that this mill had ~~always~~ been in operation practically every week day since its erection 80 years ago. He said that he had visitors from many states and that they believed it to be the only remaining frame key building in the worl I am not authority enough on the mills of the world to say if this is correct, but it is probably the only one in the county. At any rate the frame work is put together without nails, and is so well built that after 80 years there is not a give in the building, but it stands there as solid as if built only yesterday. This mill grinds both corn and wheat. Throughout the years it had ground unbleached flour, the only mill in the county that did not

Curtis { The one at Dunmore grinds unbleached fl

have a bleacher. Mr Dalton says that he has been told by authorities that it is the only known mill grinding unbleached flour. However, in April 1940 a bleacher was installed, but he says that many people of the vacinity still prefer the unbleached flour and that he grinds about four barrels per month. Bread made from the unbleached flour is said not only to be more delicious but is also more healthful as bleaching takes out all of the oils. Mr. Dalton runs the mill for Mr. McNeel on a percentage bases, and he tells me that he is busy most of the time grinding flour, meal, and feed. The original water wheel was a wooden overshot wheel, but was replaced several years ago by a metal wheel.

There has been a mill at Millpoint ever since the one erected by Valentine Cackley, Sr. in 1800, and it has always been a paying business as there are so many good farms in the surrounding country side and much stock is also raised, therefore feed is always in demand. Both the Cackley mills were located a short distance down stream from the McNeel mill.

Wooden overshot water wheels wear out; they would get heavy on the shady side. The shrewd salesman from the north would then show the advantage of the steel fabricated water wheel and of the turbine. Take an artfully constructed water wheel out of commission and it is surprising how quickly it went to pieces.

Now while a mountain man who is worth his salt and tobacco can still take an axe and make a grist mill complete, big or little, as his present need may require, I must admit that we quitt training up skilled, professional mill wrights a generation back, about the time we let surveyors get out of their depth.

WILLIAMS MILL

However, a mill run by an overshot wooden water wheel is still to be found in Pocahontas. It was made and is still owned by Squire G. M. Williams of Bruffeys Creek. Some years ago for his own convenience and that of his neighbors he rigged himself up a grist mill. He worked rainy days and made himself a water wheel fifteen feet in diameter, out of wood. It makes around eight revolutions per minute. For a spindle he used the drive shaft of a tractor steam engine, gear and all. He dammed Bruffeys Creek to put the water in a sluiceway he dug around the hillside. For corn rocks he had the choice of French burrs or a pair of millstones made from Allegheny pebblestone out of the old Smith Mill on Greenbrier River above Seebert. The squire says the Allegheny stone is far superior to the much vaunted French burrs, as the Allegheny stone does not wear like other burrs, and so do not require dressing up so often. A Mr. Couch, railroad man and utility magnate from the Ozark region of Arkansas, wishes to make a grist mill run with an overshot water wheel; all home made. So, he sent three young men to Pocahontas to see what we had in the way of mills of this type. The Williams mill was visited and measurements and pictures taken.

They also visited the old Beard mill on Locust Creek, now owned by Sydney McCoy. (Read-Pocahontas Times, July 4,1940 under item"Milling Around"for part of the above material.)

I visited the tannery of Benton Smith at Millpoint only a few days after Mr. Price and the three Arkansas travelers were there. I wanted to get the names of all the Smiths who had been tanners. He says that the first Smith of his family, so far as he

knows, was James Smith who was bound to a tanner in Staunton, Va. until he was twenty-one years of age. Then he came to Pocahontas County and rented Wallaces Tannery at Millpoint. He never had a tannery of his own. He had five sons, three of whom were tanners. Jake Smith had his tannery located at Edray, but he did not make up his leather. William Smith had no tannery but he made harness, saddles, and shoes. He also lived at Edray. It is probable that he bought the leather from his brother Jake. Joe Smith had a tannery and was located at Millpoint. Issac Smith, another son, had his tannery on the Greenbrier River between Seebert and Watoga. Pleas Smith, the fifth son, lived at Edray and was a country doctor.

Edgar A. Smith, father of Benton Smith, has a tannery near Watoga. He tans the leather and does some repair work but does not make up much of his leather. Benton Smith says that he worked in the tannery with his farher until four years ago, at which time he moved to Millpoint and built a tannery of his own. His is the good old oak tanned leather. The first spell is in the vat for one month; the second is for two months; the third for three months. If the leather is light that is enough. The fourth is for four months, and this is for heavy sides for sole leather. There were a lot of bear pelts in the process of tanning and the deer hides numbered more than one hundred. Mr. Smith has demand for tanned calf skin for leathercraft work. He makes harness and mens belts.

Andrew Young was a shoemaker.

Simpson Nottingham-----a shoemaker.

Henry Arbogast-------a blacksmith.

Jacob Yeager ------a blacksmith.

Samuel Gay of Elk----a blacksmith.

Abraham Hill -----a blacksmith.

Joseph Friel------ a blacksmith.

Thomas Mays------made shoes and harness. He lived on Browns Creek.

From Court Records.

July 16, 1940

DUNMORE MILLS

I went to Dunmore yesterday to try to get the history of the mills up there. From a history of Dunmore written by Miss Ella Pritchard several years ago I got the following;

" The only flour mill for a number of miles was located at Dunmore, and run by a splendid water power which never froze nor went dry, making it dependable. The older mill was run by what is called an overshot wheel. Later another mill was erected by Col. Stephen Cornelius Pritchard who used the turbine wheel for power. On this old water power location was also an up and down saw mill, a carding machine which did splendid work, and a planing machine which made Dunmore a very business center."

As near as I can get it by what the older people tell me, Andrew Mathews built the first mill on this location some time before the Civil War. No one seems to know if he also owned the saw mill and carding machine or not, but since they were run by the same power, it is believed that he did.

According to Miss Ella Pritchard, Andrew Mathews sold his land to William L. Duncan and Isaac Moore. They changed the name of the place from Mathewville to Dunmore, using a combination of their names. Duncan then sold to John W. Warwick in 1855, and in 1860 it was bought by John Andrew Warwick, who in turn sold to a Mr. Johnson of Warm Springs, Va. Then in 1873, Cornelius Pritchard

exchanged a farm on Jackson River for this land at Dunmore. He built the present mill not long after he moved here. Therefore it was built sometime in the 1870's.

Cam McLaughlin, the present owner of the mill showed me through the old mill and explained the purpose of each machine. All of the old original machinery, cog wheels and all are of wood, and still in use. Lumber for the mill was sawed on the old up and down saw mill. Every piece was cut on the ground and ready for assemblage before the foundation was ever laid. Then when Mr. Pritchard started to build, all he had to do was to put it together. The old wheel was an overshot wooden wheel, this was replaced by a turbine. Mr Pritchard died leaving the mill to his heirs. They did not run it themselves but rented it or hired millers to run it for them. Among those caring for the mill for a time were Luther Campbell and Jack Duffy. About fifteen years ago the mill was bought by Cam McLaughlin. He built an addition to it which he used as a garage. For many years the mill was idle. Mr. McLaughlin made a wooden wheel to generate power for lights and to charge batterys etc. This wheel was replaced a few years ago by a metal wheel. About three years ago Mr.McLaughlin started the old mill to running again. Few people liked the unbleached flour so he does not grind wheat but uses the wheat burrs to grind buckwheatflour. It also has a corn burr.

There is some talk now of it being sold to a brewery company who wish to use the mineral water. whether this deal goes through remains to be seen.

The Dunmore Roller Mill built by Winifred McElwee was not built until 1912.

History of Pocahontas--Price

I got some of this material by going

Juanita D. Hills:
Clover Mich, W. Va.
Pocahontas County
Chapter 5
November 28, 1940

EARLY INDUSTRY-- LIVERY STABLES

For many years before the coming of the automobile, the livery stable business was an important pioneer industry. These were located at Marlinton, Durbin and Seebert.

The first livery stable at Marlinton was built by James Henry G. Wilson, an Englishman who came to Marlinton in 1894 when the town was still very young. He was an honor graduate of Oxford, class of 1890. He had a thousand pound to invest, so he left England and sailed for America. He arrived in Pocahontas county in September, by spring wagon. The first horse he acquired was a kind of outlaw among horses, heavy on his feet and with a mean disposition. Wilson changed his name to Satan. He built a livery barn about where Killingsworth's plaining mill now stands. He had ten horses that he hired out to travelers. The charge was one horse, one day, one dollar. When he had become an expert with horses he acquired Joby the beautiful sorrel and the dog major. The trio were known and welcome far and wide.

This livery barn was succeeded by one just behind [illegible] the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital now stands. It was built by Jack Anderson and rented by Levi Gay and Anthony [illegible] for years. These barns were destroyed by [illegible] the Harvey livery barns on

the location of Williams and Pifers Store. This one was run by W. A. McLaughlin. It was succeeded by a stable run for a year or two by Wilbur Clark and bought by L. S. Smith, Sr. in 1906. It is said that Clark would shoe a horse while it ate and thus have it ready for the road by the time the rider had eaten his dinner. L. S. Smith, Sr. operated this stable until the cars put it out of business in 1920. For a few years Smith had both horses and cars for hire. His charges were per day $1.50 for a riding horse, horse and buggy $2.50, and $4.00 for a wagon, two horses and a driver. Some of those who drove for him were: Paul Stewart, John Malcomb, Willis Courtney, Tom Courtney and Ray Mellison. Part of this old stable still stands just behind the Smith Funeral Home.

There were other smaller stables for a year or two, but have been able to get no authentic information except that one stood about where the railroad now is just above the depot and the other where Howard McElvee's house now stands.

In 1889 there was built in the west end of Durbin a livery stable by Dave Hiner and Cam Daniels. They had ten to fifteen head of horses. It was later owned by J. Graves and N. Freeman and run by G. D. Kincaid with twenty horses. With these horses Mr. Kincaid moved both the Hosterman Lumber Co. and the lumber company to Cass, down the railroad grade before the steel was laid.

The stables were later moved to the east end of town and run by G. D. Kincaid. The charge was $5.00 for a [illegible] to Elkins, Monterey and points of like [illegible]. The stable, too, went out of business with the coming of the automobile.

The stables at Seebert were owned by S. Gladwell with six or eight horses. The other one was owned by W. D. Clark. Neither of them were very profitable.

BLACKSMITHS AT MARLINTON

Samuel Gay was the first village blacksmith in the town of Marlinton. His shop was located where Will Stewart now lives. He was at one time Sheriff of the county, and was made postmaster in 1867.

The next blacksmith shop was about where The Peoples Store and Supply Co. now stands. It was first operated by Charles L. Hevener, the big blacksmith from Mt. Grove. He lived in the Toll House, collected toll, kept postoffice, and blacksmithed for a living. Others who smithed in this shop were Clark Gum and Charles H. Dilley.

J. O. Hiner also had a shop at one time but it was later converted into a plaining mill.

The only grist mill ever built in the vicinity of Stony Bottom was the old Adam Geiger mill built about the year 1890, and later sold to William Shinaberry. At the time of Geigers ownership he had a wide circle of customers, but soon after Shinaberry came into possesion of the farm there were better roads and people took their grain to the bigger mills found elsewhere in the county. The water power arrangement, too, was not so good and grinding was more bother than profit. The old mill still stands and part of the machinery [illegible] Ground both corn and flour.

Also about 1890, J. W. McClure of Indian Draft built [illegible] but it did not prove very profitable.

was soon abandoned. Used it only about six years.

John R. Johnson who lived in the Brush community where Cameron Beverage now owns was a cooper. That is a person who made wooden tubs, churns and barrels.

Dick Knapp was also a cooper.

RATE OF WAGES

One day when I was looking through an old court order book at the court house I noticed that from 1825 to 1833 men were paid for work on the public roads $.50, for clerk of the poles $2.00, days service in keeping poles $1.00, while they were paid $8.00 for a wolf scalp.

By 1834 the price for a wolf scalp had raised to $10. while wages continued the same. By 1845 wages were still $.50 and wolf scalps were $12.00

OLD QUILT

The oldest dated quilt in America according to the Russell Sage Foundation is a quilt owned by Mrs. Lou M. Cogner of Clover Lick. It is dated 1795. It is of applique design. Mrs. Cogner has had it on exhibit three times in New York.

From--- Calvin Price

Tolbert Waugh

Luther McNeill

Marvin Carter

[illegible] Smith, Sr.

Mrs. [illegible] Kincaid

[illegible]

X S. W. McClure

OFFICE LETTER

To Bruce Crawford, State Director Office	Date October 4, 1940
From Juanita S. Dilley Office	Referring to
Subject Report for October 4, 1940	File

Separate sheet for each subject. Omit all formalities. For office letters only.

I am repeating a little of the material sent in at other times, but in this I have traced the ownership of some of the old mill from their beginning to the present time. Use this report in connection with those sent in on June 12 and June 18. I have checked all of the material in this one with the deeds given, and all of the dates were taken from those deeds. There are still a few more that I hope to have completed by next week.

J.S.D.

A-1028

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

October 4, 1940

Chapter 5 Pioneer Industry

MILLS ---- BLACKSMITHS ---- TANNERS

The first mill ever built on Stony Creek was a small tub mill built by Henry Duncan in 1824. He served his apprenticeship in Virginia and came to Pocahontas as one of our first carpenters. He helped build the old Court House at Huntersville, the old brick Oak Grove Church and old Hamline Chapel log church. His tub mill was at the head of the Big Spring. He leased this land for a period of eight years and built thereon a mill. It ground corn and buckwheat. It is believed that he discontinued the mill at the end of his lease and that John Duffield built his mill about seventeen years later.

Court records show that John Duffield bought land on Stony Creek in 1839. No doubt he built the mill a short time after coming into possession of the land. This tract of land consisting of 280 acres was a part of 22,000 acres originally patented to Henry Philips assee of James Patent and was sold on August 6,1839 by Jacob H. Arbogast, Commisioner of Delinquent Lands. John Duffield was the highest bidder.

This mill was an old log building. It ground both corn [illegible]. It was run by an overshot,wooden water wheel.

On January 31, 1878 Jacob Waugh bought of John Duffield [illegible] on which was built a mill for the sum of $600. And [illegible] the heirs of Jacob Waugh sold the "Duffield [illegible] Samuel D. Waugh for $1800. On February 28,1899 Samuel D. Waugh sold the property to Godfrey Geiger for $1800.

Book No. 28

Godfrey Geiger owned and operated this mill until June 8, 1929 when he sold it to the present owner Tollert Waugh. This mill has both corn and wheat burrs but Mr. Waugh does not use the wheat burrs.

The old log mill built by John Duffield was torn down and the present mill built by Jacob Waugh and sons in 1890.

Perhaps the next grist mill to be built on Stony Creek was one built by Nathan Barlow in 1850 which ground corn only. In connection with this mill was a carding machine. This mill stood just below where the fish hatchery now is. It was run by a wooden overshot water wheel. On May 7, 1872 Nathan Barlow sold this property to James Auldridge. Mr. Auldridge used this mill until 1890 when it was discontinued and some time later was torn down. The burrs were sold to a man by the name of Cassell and they were taken up on Leatherbark and put in a mill built by Cassell.

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Wesley Barlow had a tan yard where the barn Hepsidam now stands. This is just above the fish hatchery and in sight of the Nathan Barlow Mill. It is said that one time Mr. Barlow let the fire get out and he ran up over the hill calling, "Help I Dan", and since he did not speak plainly it sounded like he was saying "Heps I dam" and the place has been called Hepsidam ever since. He sold his tanyard to James Auldridge in 1872. This made Auldridge owner of a grist mill, a carding machine and a tanyard from 1872 until 1890. People still referr to it as the Jimmy Auldridge mill.

Book No. 10-P.15

At the head of the Big Spring branch of Stony Creek was a grist mill and an up and down saw mill built by Isaac Moore sometime prior to the Civil war, perhaps this mill was built before the Barlow mill. During the summer and fall of 1861 Edray swarmed with soldiers on the march and in camp. Mr. Moore contracted camp fever then measles, from which he died Dec. 5, 1861. From that time until 1884 the mill was run by his son Taylor Moore On March 1, 1884 Taylor Moore and Mary C. his wife deeded to George H. McLaughlin 24 acres on Stony Creek including the head of the Big Spring branch and a water grist mill and a saw mill for $1800. This mill ground both corn and wheat. In connection with the mill the McLaughlins had a still which made peach and apple brandy.

In 1900 D. L. Barlow built a planing mill and a corn grist mill just about where the bridge now is. It was run by a turbine. This mill was discontinued in 1910.

The first saw mill on Stony Creek was an up and down mill built by William Cochran where Porter Sharp now lives. According to Hardesty's Encyclopedia this was the first saw mill in Edray District. He also had a blacksmith shop and a tilt hammer.

The only mill now in operation on Stony Creek is the grist mill owned by Tolbert Waugh. But there have been some larger saw mill that will be covered in chapter 7.

Mr. and Mrs. George Courtney of Buckeye were weavers by trade. It is said that they made a good living with the proceeds of the loom.

George White on Laurel Creek had an up and down saw mill.

John Tyler of Edray was a blacksmith. He made wagons and was a master of repairing machinery. The only man in Pocahontas county at that time who could put cogs in the mastervheel of the old horse power threasher.

Jake and John Simmons were shoemakers, and Buck Waugh on Greenbrier river was a shoemaker.

MILLS AT MILL POINT

These old mills built by the Cackleys have been mentioned in previous reports, but in this I am going to trace their ownership from the beginning to the present.

The lower mill which stands just over the bank below the state ~~highway~~, was ~~first~~ built by Valentine Cackley, Sr. about 1800 and was one of the very first mills ever built in Pocahontas county. At the death of Valentine Cackley, Sr. the mill went into the hands of his heirs Valentine Cackley, Jr. and others. The mill was either rebuilt or repaired by them in the 1830's. In 1856 they sold the mill to Dr. Mathew Wallace. Dr. Wallace brought a man by the name of Roch from Monroe county to run the mill for him. Roch's descendants have continued to be millers and millwrites. Along with this mill property was also a carding machine a blacksmith shop and a tannery, all of the built by the Cackleys. James Smith was one of the tanners to work in this tannery during the ownership of Dr. Wallace. (see report for June 18, 1940 page 7)

In 1882 Dr. Wallace sold this property to Uriah Bird. Bird did not use the carding machine during his period of ownership. The old Cackley mill was torn down by Uriah Bird and the present mill erected on almost exactly the same site.

In 1892 Bird sold this mill property to Wellington T. Hogsett. He was a preacher therefore did not run the mill himself. Some of those who took care of the mill for him were: John Burgess, John Dotson, James Gabbert, Steel McClintic, O. L. Wilson, Henry Pouge, and W. L. (Bud) Hogsett.

Joe Dilley and a colored man by the name of George Lee were two of the blacksmiths who have worked in this shop.

This grist mill ground corn, wheat, buckwheat, and feed. "Bud" Hogsett was a good mechanic and during the time he run the mill he did some repair on it, putting it in excellent condition. He also bought new teeth for the carding machine and set it to running again. People say that this was the best carding machine ever built in the county and people for many miles brought their wool here to be carded. (Because of some dissatisfaction among the heirs, he quit the mill). For upon the death of W. T. Hogsett the property went to his heirs of whom "Bud" Hogsett was one.

The Hogsett heirs still own this mill, but they say that it does not pay them to hire a miller to run it for them and for some reason the estate has never been settled. The mill has been idle for the past four years. The dam is now washed out but other than that the mill is in very good condition.

The upper mill was built by Joseph Cackley some time even after the lower mill was built. There was also an up and

down saw mill on this location built either by the Cackleys or by Sampson L. Mathews. It went into the possession of Valentine Cackley and James Cackley and they sold it to Sampson L. Mathews in 1834. Mathews then moved from his home on Swago and spent the remainder of his life at Mill Point. Mary the only child of Sampson L. Mathews married William H. McClintic and came into possession of the mill and saw mill upon the death of her father in 1854. In 1865 William H. McClintic sold this property to Isaac McNeel.(see report for June 12. 1940 for the history of McNeel's mill) Isaac McNeel built the present mill just a short distance from the site of the old Cackley mill.

Hunter McClintic, son of William H. McClintic, built the old red mill on Swago. It was just below the site if the old Jonathan and Phebe McNeill mill. It ground both corn and flour, and was built sometime in the 1880's. It was called McClintic's Old Red Mill. Grose and Armentrout were the millwrites. This mill has been idle for a good many years, and was torn down a few years ago.

Beard Mill Property-----Locust Creek

The first mill on this property is believed to have been built by Josiah Beard, a pioneer, and seems to have been rebuilt, or a new mill built by his son Edwin Beard. I could find no date as to when the mill was built but in July 1893 Edwin L. Beard and Mollie his wife sold the "Beard Mill Property" to W. H. [illegible]. On [illegible] L. J. Williams was appointed Special Commissioner to sell the land as decreed by the June term of court in the suit of [illegible] and W. C. Patterson, trustees, vs W. H. Overholt

and others. A. F. Mathews became the purchaser for $2900 for lien upon land. Said Mathews signified to have the deed made to H. W. Hill and E. L. Beard. "25 acres including a Grist mill and water power known as the Beard Mill Property." The deed was given March 5, 1901. In 1905 there was another suit of chancery over this property, and in 1907 it was sold to Charles S. Donnally. Donnally owned the mill until in 1911 when he sold to J. F. Gabbert. Gabbert later sold it to Bertie Hiner and husband, T. H. Hiner. In 1922 there was another suit of chancery and on November 13, 1923 L. M. McClintic, Special Commissioner, Bertie Hiner and T.H. Hiner deeded it to James W. H. Poage who on March 17, 1925 sold it to W. W. McCoy, and on December 30, 1931 it was bought by Sidney McCoy the present owner. I think one would be perfectly safe in saying that this mill has the destinction of having changed hands more times than any other mill in all Pocahontas County.

Dilleys Mill---Thorny Creek

* Dilleys Mill was first built by Henry Dilley, the pioneer, and in 1843 was deeded to his son John Dilley along with all of his lands on Thorny Creek, for support of he and his wife in their old age. John Dilley was a mechanic of remarkable skill to be a self trained workman. He was honest and industrious, and it is believed by his friends that he sacrificed his health to his useful calling through exposure. William H. Dilley another son was for many years the village blacksmith at Huntersville. John Dilley seems to have had but one child Frances wife of Leiut. [illegible] Poage who was killed during the Civil War. Mrs. Poage was died some time previously. As near as I can trace the ownership

of this property it was bought from the John Dilley estate by Andrew Dilley. Andrew Dilley owned it in 1879 for he made a deed for one acre of land to William Dilley and in this deed is made mention that this land is near the mill now owned by me(Andrew Dilley). At his death his lands on Thorny Creek were divided between his sons Amos and Hanson. The Dilleys Mill Property falling to Hanson Dilley. He run the mill for a number of years, but it has been idle for at least twenty years, though the old building is still there.

Not far from Dilleys Mill was the tannery of Robert Shrader.(In my report for June 18, 1940) I said that Henry and H. C. Shrader were also successful tanners. That should read Henry and Jake Shrader. Jake Shrader also made wagons. An old wagon made by him is now owned by Ernest Defenbaugh of Big Run. John H. Shrader was a blacksmith. His shop stood near his home in the Hills community and was torn down about one year ago by his son Clyde.

The Wanless mill was a few miles farther up Thorny Creek than Dilleys Mill on land now owned by Joe Fertig.

From--- I got the names from Tolbert Waugh, Bill Gilmer, Anderson Barlow, W. A. Dilley, Mrs. Ira Fortune daughter of W.T. Hogsett, Miss Anna Wallace daughter of Dr. Wallace, and others. I then checked every bit of this material with court records for dates and additional names. Deeds will be found in Deed Book numbers 3, 23, 31, 37. 43, 50, 62, 65, and 68 for Dilleys and Beards Mills.

I seem to have misplaced the numbers of some of these deed books, but is much easier to find them by looking the names of people and using the index

— Bit of Poem — Price

Inventory of Materials

Inventory

Topic: Old Mill W.Va.

Mill Point

Title: Old mill on bank of Stamping Creek

Author: Postmaster of Mill Point

Reply to letter

Date submitted: Nov 23, 1937 Length: _____ words.

Status:

Contents:

Built about 1868 is still operating.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

OF WEST VIRGINIA

J. N. ALDERSON
ADMINISTRATOR

[illegible]
Charleston, W. Va.

[illegible] 1937.

Postmaster of [illegible]
West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

[illegible]

A Carpenter by the name of Reed built the mill.

[illegible]

Thanking you for your kind cooperation, I am,

Very truly yours,

John L. Stender

John L. Stender,
State Director
Federal Writers' Project.

JLS:ew

R. H. Auldridge.
Postmaster of Mill Point.

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry Date 6/6/41

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W.Va. Geological Survey by Paul Price.

Commerce And Industry.Samurl G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

Water-Power and present development.

At the present time little or no utilization is being made of the many streams of Pocahontas County in the way of making electricity,save for a turbine installed near the mouth of Clover Creek by the Coyners of Clover Lick to operate an electric generator.Probably the greatest use to which the streams are put,and even this is infrequent and of small consequence is to propel overshot water-wheels to grind flour and feed ,in the latter way there remains five mills but only four that operate throughout the year.These mills are as follows on Stony Creek use to be known as the Seiger mill but now run by the present owner Tolbert Waugh.The McNeel mill at Millpoint owned by Dr.H.W McNeel and run by different millers,the Locust Creek mill owned by Wallace McCoy and run by his son Sidney but only grinds corn.The Hogsett mill or better known as the lower mill at Millpoint was run for years by the late T.W Hogsett both mills at Millpoint ground both corn and wheat but since the death of Mr Hogsett this mill has been run very little and then only corn was ground but in connection with this mill was a [illegible] run by the same power but it has ceased to run on account of the [illegible] power, in the race, due to floods in recent years.The Heavener mill [illegible] is owned by the Crouchers and still grinds wheat [illegible] these mills have played a very important part in the [illegible] along with some that have ceased to run and

Commerce And Industry.Samuel G Smith Hillsboro W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

been torn down namely the Isaac Smith mill on Greenbrier River at mouth of Stevens Hole Run,The McClintic mill at the entrance of McClintic Farm,the Hill mill beyond Jacox and many other small corn mills,were run by water-power from small streams and waterfalls throughout the county,and many were the grists of corn ground on these mills that came from what is known as new ground when our forests were cleared into fertile fields that we till today.

Streams available for water- power development are Greenbrier River that carries the greater part of Pocahontas County's rainfall,it is made up of two forks the West Fork coming from the east of Shavers Mountain near Wildell with an elevation of 3,625 feet,the East Fork heads at Blister Swamp on the western slope of Allegheny Mountain with an elevation of 3,875 they come together at Durbin and make the Greenbrier River proper and it continues its southwest journey through the county,through Greenbrier County and enters New River at Bellepoint just below Hinton where the elevation is I,375 or a drop of about 2,500 feet making this a stream with plenty of power undeveloped.It drains an area of about 687.06 square miles in Pocahontas County with a never failing supply of water.Locust Creek undevelopped save for one grist mill,it a tributary of Greenbrier River.Hills Creek which heads high up on Kennison mountain flows south to form the Falls of Hills Creek which are very beautiful this stream has a steady flow of sparkling mountain water.Pruffeys Creek [illegible] the side of Piney Mountain winds its way down the narrow

Commerce And Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

ley and sinks southeast of Lobelia.Stamping Creek whose source is Cranberry Mountain sinks up the creek and rises just above Millpoint where it now runs overshot wheels that gring feed and flour,its rate of fall is 251.5 feet per mile.Milling has been done here since the early 80s.The Blue Spring feeds the main creek while a spring coming out of the Gillan Mountain furnishes water for the race that runs the McNeel mill.Smogo Creek with considerable volume is fed largely by springs namely McClintic Run,Overholt Run,Dry Creek,Cave Creek and Bucks Run this stream has considerable fall capable of running an electric generator or over shot wheels.Knapps Creek a tributary of Greenbrier River with the largest flow of water of any entering the Greenbrier has a fall of 58.2 feet per mile.Stony Creek has a fall of 196.9 feet per mile and on this stream we find the Waugh mill.Cloverlick Creek whose source is Gay Knob and Cloverlick Mountain has a fall of 161.2 feet per mile,near the mouth of this stream is a small turbine that operates an electric generator.Sittlington Creek its source high up on Allegheny Mountain has a fall of 136.5 feet per mile.Deer Creek the second largest tributary of the Greenbrier in Pocahontas County heads in Frank Mountain,flows near Greenbank and Arbovale and on to the river but before getting to the Greenbrier it has cut a beautiful ox bow gorge,this stream could be easily harnessed and put to work supplying electricity to the entire Greenbank District.Cranberry River heads on Cranberry and Black Mountain

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with a rapid fall from its source to the Glades and from there on follows a very slow sluggish course,a dam could be constructed near the head forming a large basin of several hundred acres a water supply that could furnish electricityX to the entire Little Levels District.Williams River heads on the west side of Day and Swago Mountain,this is another of Pocahontas Countys streams that can be harnessed and put to work but AX it like many of our other streams lays back in almost a wilderness and due to lack of roads has not been opened up and should have a great future in store.

Many of Pocahontas County streams furnished power for the pioneer to grind corn,run Tilt-Hammers and our old Up & Down saw mills .

Mills run by electricity is the Marlinton mill ,run by gas engin the Dunmore Mill and the Hillsboro mill the rest are run by water power. George Williams of near Lobelia has erected a small corn mill that serves Lobelia and surrounding terretory,John P Sharp also has a small corn mill in what is known as the brush country.

The water-power development in Pocahontas County is in its infa but where ever it has been developed this particular section has grown an tomy we find where milling is done the population is larger,stores and po offices have come in until they are community centers.

Information-S.W. Price Marlinton.W.Va.J.C Morrison Marlinton W.Va.

W.Va. Geological Survey by Paul Price.

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Pocahontas

-7-

West Virginia Writers' Project

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History of Pocahontas Co.by William T Price.

Hardestys History and Encyclopedia.

NOTE

1

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.SAMUEL G.SMITH HILLSBORO.,VA.POCAHONTAS CO.

The first county court of Pocahontas County convened March 1822 at the house of John Bradshaw those qualifying were John Jordan,William Poag, James Tallman,Robert Gay,George PoagX,Benjamin Tallman,John Baxter and George Burner a little later on John Jordan became the first sheriff of the county under a $30.000.00 bond with Abraham and Isaac McNeel as his bondsmen,Josiah Beard was appointed clerk of the court his work speaks for its self and Sampson L Mathews was recommended and appointed as surveyor of lands,William HughXs was appointed constable of Little Levels and James Cooper was appointed constable for the upper end of the county now Greenbank District.Travis W Perkins opened up a house of entertainment thus he became the first hotel proprietor in Pocahontas County.

The first term of court convened onMay 7,1822 and the first grand jury that ever sat in a body for Pocahontas County were the following persons Samuel Daugherty,foreman,John Mooney,George Key,John Johnston,Joseph Fi[illegible]ed,James Grimes,James Bridger,Samuel Waugh,Henry Herold,James Lewis,John [illegible]ines,Morris Hughs,William Blair,Andrew D Hamilton,Samuel Hogset,James McNe[illegible] [illegible]illiam McNeel,John Moore,Lanty Lockridge,Jonathan Griffin,and Abraham Sea[illegible] [illegible],these fine old gentlemen paved the way for our present court.

Pocahontas County was named for the daughter of a Powhatan,her rea[illegible] [illegible] was born about the year 1595,about 1612 she was visiting

famous chief of the Potomac Indians,and it was at this time she was enticed her on board a boat and she was taken away by captain Argall and so she met and married John Rolfe.

The first man to carry a compass in the Greenbrier valley was John Lewis,and the first settler in Little Levels was Col.John McNeel who came to this country thinking he had killed a man in the Maryland-Virginia section but after locating in Little Levels and erecting a cabin and out hunting he came upon Charles and James Kinnison from where the fight took place and informed him the man had not died and in fact not seriously wounded,this was great relief for him and he began to open up the vast wilderness that later became the garden spot of Pocahontas County,these men and their wives were buried in the McNeel cemetery just north of Hillsboro.

Huntersville the county seat for many years was laid out in 1821 and shortly boasted of two general mercantile stores,the county buildings, a hotel a postoffice and one news paper the Pocahontas Times all of which were moved to Marlinton which became the countyseat in later years.

The first settlers in Edray District was Marlin and Sewell who erected a cabin near the present site of Greenbrier Bridge in 1749 this location grew until today we find a town of near 1,600 population.

In the early days grain was threshed both by the flail and by the riding of one horse and the leading of one or more that were freshly shod

and in this way the grain was seperated from the straw this was known as ''tramping out'' all the grain was threshed in this manner until 1839 when a machine was introduced in this county by William Gibson of Huntersville, W.Va.This machinewas known as the ''chaff piler'' this machine was operated by Jesse Whitmer and John Galford late of Millpoint,the Greenbrier Bridge was built in 1854-56 by Lemuel Chenowerth of Beverley this bridge has meant much to the development of Pocahontas County and to the growth of Marlinton as it is the largest shipping point in Pocahontas County serving a larger area.

Pocahontas County has had many famous sons in the formation and growth of the county as N.C McNeill a native son who took to the law profession in his early years ,was one of Pocahontas County's destinguished criminal lawyer and later represented this district in the State Senate,other attorneys were Andrew Price, L.M McClintic,F.R Hill who in his later years served in the legislature,A.P Edgar lawyer and Prosacuting Attorney for a number of years,in later years Pocahontas has put out new lawyers in J.E Buckley and A.E Cooper who are practicing at this time .Pocahontas County has twin brothers that they should be proud and justly so, in the Sharp brothers, Summers and George Summers served for 20 years on the bench as Circuit Judge serving the counties of Greenbrier,Monroe and Pocahontas and in 1936 ran

an UNSUccessful race for governor of the state,while his brother served a term term as clerk of the court and later served as Secretary of state.

No man ever lived in Pocahontas County that was more universally loved than the late Squire L Brown who served as clerk of the county court continuously from 1884 until the time of his death 1934 with the exception of a term served by the late C.J McCarty.

Durbin the largest town in the upper Pocahontas was chartered in 1906 is the shipping and mercantile center for the northern end of the county largely built up by the tannery at Frank,Cass a lumbering town below Durbin was brought about by the lumbering industry of Pocahontas County.Greenbank a rural town in an agricultural section was the homes of many of the pioneers of Pocahontas that migrated across the Allegheny's to erect tanneries, grist-mills and the like,as this section is famous for its fine quality buckwheat that was one of the principal crops of our sturdy pioneers.

Pocahontas county produced another favorite son that had much to do with the advancement and progress of the county, This man is George W McClintic who has served as Federal Judge of the southern district of W.Va.for a number of years,besides this he is owner of vast farm and grazing lands at Buckeye and on Williams River that produces mules,cattle and lambs in large numbers XXXXXXXXX.

Peter Lightner was the builder of the first grist mill,this mill was erected on Knapps Creek,this was quite an improvement on the way they had to make meal before that time as up to that time they used the hominy block and the hollowed out log in which they pounded the corn until it was fine enough to bake into bread.

In the early days a man by the name of John Harmess began hauling goods from Staunton to Pocahontas County to trade to the settlers for their pelts,venison,ginseng etc.for which they received salt,coffee,powder,lead, and he always carried a piece of calico this trading post was at Huntersville at the cabin of John Bradshaw,from this fact the place became known as Huntersville,a name which it has ever since retained.It was no uncommon thing for the merchants to make from three to four hundred percent on dry goods and near that amount on groceries but shortly the Warm Springs-Huntersville road was built then stores of size and importance came into existance namely Amos Barlow,J.C Loury & Son,and Loury & Doyle.Here for many years a thriving business was carried on in the harness and saddlery business,first by John Haines then by William Fertig and lastly by William Grose & Son.Before the children of Israel brought ready made clothing to our county tailoring was a good business at Huntersville.Messers Campbell and John& James Holden turned out a great deal of work.Weddings always gave the saddlers a goodly share of

BUSINESS as it was considered good form for the bride to have a new outfit,horse,saddle,and bridle and most of this was made at huntersville at that time.

Jack Tidd,William Dilley and G.W Ginger operated blacksmith shops at Huntersville at different times.

For a long series of years nothing seemed more flourishing than the hostelry business in conjunction with salooning,this was particularly true with one of the largest hotels at Huntersville and was operated succession by J.Williams.John Bussard.John Holden.Porterfield Wallace,I.C Carpenter and F.Campbell but was burned in the fire of 1852.Another hotel operated by William Gibson,John Haines and Davis Hamilton this one was burned during the war.

Information------C.W Price.Marlinton.W.Va.
History of Pocahontas County,by William T Price.
Rella F Yeager.Hillsboro.W.Va.
Hardeatys History And Encyclopedia.